

The background of the slide features a large, faded Air Force emblem. It consists of a stylized eagle with its wings spread wide, perched atop a five-pointed star. A red circle is centered within the star. The entire emblem is rendered in a light tan or beige color against a solid blue-grey background.

Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Original timeline provided by Air Force History & Museums Program • U.S. Air Force • 2003
Research provided by Air Force History Support Office

Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1900s

Click on the dates below to learn more

1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

2001

Wars & Conflicts

- Philippine Insurrection
- Boxer Rebellion

Technology

- Transatlantic radio (Morse code)

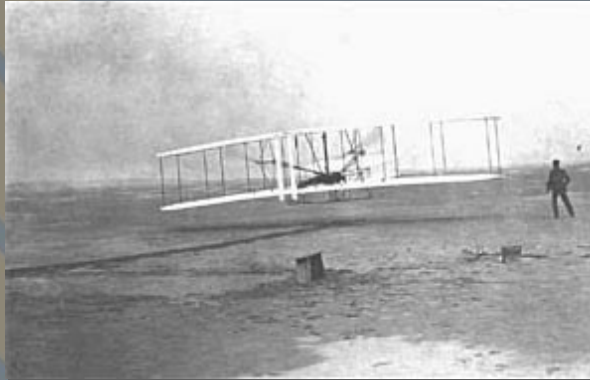
1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

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9
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First flight, 1903

Aerospace Events

- Wright Brothers' Flight at Kitty Hawk, NC - Dec. 17, 1903

1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1904

Technology

- Diode
- Photoelectric cell

1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Technology

- Vacuum radio tube

1905

1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1906

Wars & Conflicts

- U.S. Troops sent to Cuba
- Moro Rebellion (Philippines)

Technology

- Triode

1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1907

Wars & Conflicts

- U.S. Marines intervene in Honduras

Technology

- Gnome rotary engine aircraft

1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



1909 Flyer at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Wars & Conflicts

- U.S. Troops sent to Nicaragua

Aerospace Events

- First U.S. military aircraft delivered

Significant Aircraft

- [Wright Military Flyer](#)

1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909

Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1910s

Click on the dates below to learn more

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

0
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9
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Aerospace Events

- First takeoff from a ship
- First landing on a ship

Technology

- Air-to-ground radio

Munitions

- Hand-dropped bombs
- Aerial torpedo

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Wars & Conflicts

- First use of an aircraft in war

Aerospace Events

- First catapult launch

Technology

- Superconductivity discovered

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Significant Aircraft

- Curtiss Model D

Munitions

- Aerial machine gun



Curtiss Model D at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

1911

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1912

Wars & Conflicts

- U.S. Marines intervene in Nicaragua

Significant Aircraft

- Burgess Model H

Munitions

- Bomb release racks

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

3
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9
1

Wars & Conflicts

- Moro Rebellion (Philippines)

Technology

- Autopilot (gyroscope)

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1914

Wars & Conflicts

- World War I begins

Technology

- Transatlantic telephone

Air Force Organization

- Primary purpose is observation for infantry and artillery

Munitions

- Leaflet bombs

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1915



Wars & Conflicts

- *Lusitania* sunk by U-boat
- U.S. Marines intervene in Haiti
- German saboteurs blow up NJ munitions dump

Munitions

- Bomb sights
- Interruptor gear (allowed flying machine gun through propeller)

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1916



Pancho Villa (center)

Wars & Conflicts

- U.S. Troops occupy Dominican Republic
- General Pershing pursues **Pancho** Villa into Mexico
- *USS Housatonic* sunk by U-boat

Technology

- Air-to-Air radio

Significant Aircraft

Curtiss JN-4

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



13th Aero Squadron aircraft,
August 1918

Wars & Conflicts

- U.S. enters [World War I](#)
- Bolshevik Revolution

Aerospace Events

- First scheduled Air Mail delivery

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Nieuport 11 armed with rockets for attacking observation balloons

Air Force Organization

- War broadened use of air power: beginning of air combat to deny enemy reconnaissance; bombing and strafing of enemy ground forces

Munitions

- Incendiary bombs
- High explosives

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1919



DH-4 (top) and MB-2 (bottom) at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Technology

- Liberty 12-cylinder aircraft engine

Significant Aircraft

- DH-4
- Martin MB-2

Munitions

- Air-delivered sea mines

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Significant Aircraft

- Thomas-Morse MB-3

1916

1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919

United States Army Air Service



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1920s

Click on the dates below to learn more

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1920



Gen. Billy Mitchell congratulates
Capt. St. Clair Streett upon the
return of the first Alaskan flight

Aerospace Events

- Alaska flight in DH-4s (New York to Nome)

Technology

- Magnetron

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Aerospace Events

- [Billy Mitchell](#) sinks Battleship *Ostfriesland*

To prove the prowess of the air, Gen. Billy Mitchell used aircraft to bomb salvaged U.S. Navy ships

1921

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



The first transcontinental flight across the United States within a 24-hour period was made by Lt. Jimmy Doolittle on Sept. 4, 1922

Aerospace Events

- First non-stop coast-to-coast flight

1922

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

3
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9
1

Technology

- Radio Nav aids

Munitions

- RDX explosives

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



All four Douglas World Cruisers

Aerospace Events

- First aerial circumnavigation of the globe

Technology

- Liquid-fueled rockets
- Wright J-5 "Whirlwind" radial engine

Significant Aircraft

- P-1

1924

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1925



Billy Mitchell

Aerospace Events

- Byrd flies over North Pole

Air Force Organization

- Billy Mitchell's fight for aviation independence highlighted by his court-martial

Significant Aircraft

- O-2
- C-1

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



C-2 at Teterboro Field, NJ

Wars & Conflicts

- U.S. Troops sent to Nicaragua

Air Force Organization

- U.S. Army Air Corps formed
- Purpose of aviation is to destroy enemy aircraft and attack enemy ground forces; controlled by ground commander

Significant Aircraft

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



A-3, October 1927

Aerospace Events

- Lindbergh flies solo across Atlantic

Technology

- Television

Significant Aircraft

- A-3

1927

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1929



P-12 at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Significant Aircraft

- P-12

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Instrument panel used by Jimmy Doolittle on first blind flight

Aerospace Events

- Jimmy Doolittle makes first all-instrument flight

Munitions

- 500-lb. bombs
- Dive-bombing

1921

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929

Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1930s

Click on the dates below to learn more

1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Significant Aircraft

- O-25

1936

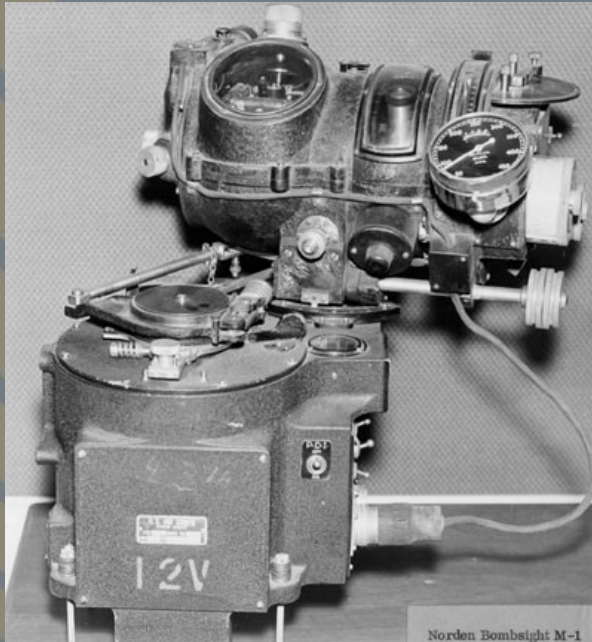
1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1931



Norden M-1 bombsight

Wars & Conflicts

- Sino-Japanese Conflict begins

Munitions

- Norden bombsight

1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1932
1933
1934
1935
1936
1937
1938
1939



P-26A at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Significant Aircraft

- P-26

1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Technology

- Klystron

3
3
9
1

1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



B-10 at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Aerospace Events

- Alaska flight in B-10s (DC to Fairbanks)

Technology

- Ground-based radar

Significant Aircraft

- B-10

4
3
9
1

1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



A-17A at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Air Force Organization

- Air units may have some role beyond land battle
- General HQ Air Force formed; organized for centralized training and concentrated employment; controlled by theater commander in war

Significant Aircraft

- A-17

5
3
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1

1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



C-33, May 1936

Wars & Conflicts

- Spanish Civil War begins

Technology

- Airborne radar

Significant Aircraft

- C-33

Munitions

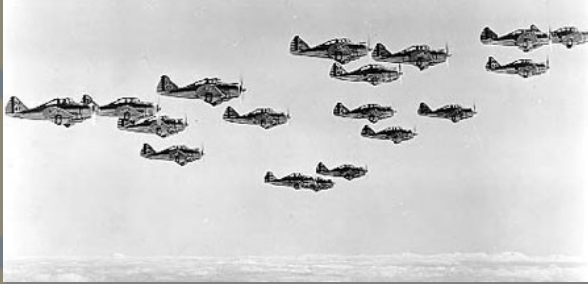
- Airborne cannon

1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



P-35s of the 1st Pursuit Group

Wars & Conflicts

- Japanese attack *USS Panay* in Chinese waters

Aerospace Events

- Hindenburg burns

Significant Aircraft

- O-47
- P-35
- B-17

1937
1936
1935
1934

1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Adolf Hitler at the time he came into power in 1933

Wars & Conflicts

- World War II begins

Technology

- Jet aircraft (centrifugal flow turbojet)

Munitions

- Air-delivered land mines

1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939

Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1940s

Click on the dates below to learn more

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1940
1941
1942
1943
1944
1945
1946
1947
1948
1949



P-40E at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Air Force Organization

- Strategic bombing accepted as a valid function of air power

Significant Aircraft

- P-40
- C-45

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1941



Wars & Conflicts

- Pearl Harbor

Technology

- R-2800 radial engine

Air Force Organization

- Army Air Forces (USAAF) formed

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



B-24s of the 33rd Bomb Squadron

Significant Aircraft

- B-24
- B-25
- B-26
- P-38
- C-47

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1941

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



A-27s in Philippines, 1941

Munitions

- 4,000-lb. bombs
- Napalm
- Retarded bombs
- Target marking bombs

1941

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



B-25 takes off from the *USS Hornet* during the Tokyo Raid

Wars & Conflicts

- Guadalcanal
- Invasion of North Africa

Aerospace Events

- [Doolittle's Raid on Tokyo](#)
- AAF's first strategic bombing of Europe
- First flight of [P-59](#) (AF's first jet)

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



B-29 *Bockscar* at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Significant Aircraft

- C-87
- P-47
- A-26
- B-29
- C-46

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1942

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



B-25 of 3rd Attack Group, 1942

Munitions

- Radar bombing
- Cluster bombs
- Shaped-charge warheads
- Skip bombing
- 22,000-lb. bombs
- Radio proximity fuze

1942

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



A-36A in Sicily, 1943

Wars & Conflicts

- Invasion of Sicily
- Battle of Bismarck Sea

Aerospace Events

- V-1 cruise missile
- V-2 ballistic missile

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



B-26B with flak damage,
September 1943

Technology

- Nuclear reactor

Air Force Organization

- Airman's "Declaration of Independence," land and air forces are co-equal and interdependent; air superiority is first requirement in battle; controlled by Air Commander

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



P-51 taking off from Iwo Jima

Significant Aircraft

- P-51
- C-54

Munitions

- Radio-controlled glide bomb
- Hardened targets weapons

1943

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Anti-boat spikes along the
beaches of Normandy, France

Wars & Conflicts

- [D-Day](#)
- MacArthur returns to Philippines
- Battle of the Bulge

Aerospace Events

- First land-based bombing of Japan

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1944



Gen. Hap Arnold

Technology

- Axial-flow turbojet
- Pulse-jet missile (V-1 “Buzz Bomb”)

Air Force Organization

- General Arnold announces plan to destroy Luftwaffe with air power, to make European invasion as cheap as possible

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



P-61C at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Air Force Organization (continued)

- 20th Air Force activated (first independent strategic force)

Significant Aircraft

- P-61
- R-4

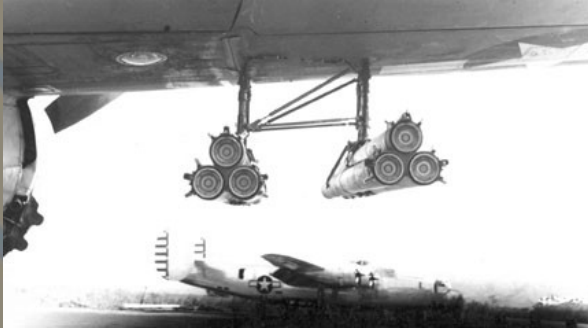
[Additional events will automatically appear]

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



T-30 rocket launcher mounted on
A-20

Munitions

- Air-launched rockets
- Radar-controlled glide bomb

1944

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



B-29 *Enola Gay*, the aircraft that dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan

Wars & Conflicts

- Iwo Jima
- V-E Day
- Hiroshima/Nagasaki
- V-J Day

[Additional events will automatically appear]

5
4
9
1

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



F-80s bound for Chanute AFB

Technology

- First rocket to escape atmosphere
- First explosion of atomic device

Significant Aircraft

- F-80

5
4
9
1

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



H-5 (originally designated R-5)

Technology

- Turboprop engine

Air Force Organization

- SAC, TAC and ADC formed

Significant Aircraft

- R-5

1946

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1947



Chuck Yeager with the X-1A

Wars & Conflicts

- French-Indochina War
- Palestinian War

Technology

- Sound barrier broken by *Capt. Chuck Yeager*
- Transistor

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



XF-84

Air Force Organization

- USAF formed

Significant Aircraft

- C-97
- F-84
- H-13

1947

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1941



Berlin Airlift

Wars & Conflicts

- Berlin Airlift

Technology

- Soviets explode A-bomb

Significant Aircraft

- B-50
- B-45
- B-36

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



F-86A in flight

Technology

- Experimental ramjet aircraft
- Anti-iced engines
- Afterburning turbojets

Significant Aircraft

- F-86

1941

1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949

Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1950s

Click on the dates below to learn more

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



B-29s drop bombs on North Korean targets early in the conflict

Wars & Conflicts

- Korean War begins

Aerospace Events

- First jet aircraft dogfight

Munitions

- Guided air-to-air rockets

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



F-94s in formation

Significant Aircraft

- C-121
- C-131/T-29
- F-94
- C-119

1950
1951
1952
1953
1954
1955
1956
1957
1958
1959

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



C-124C at the National Museum
of the U.S. Air Force

Significant Aircraft

- C-124
- B-47
- F-89

1951

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



This B-52 was used to test hydrogen bomb blast effects

Aerospace Events

- British explode A-bomb
- U.S. explodes first H-bomb

Technology

- J79 engine
- Maser

Significant Aircraft

- H-19

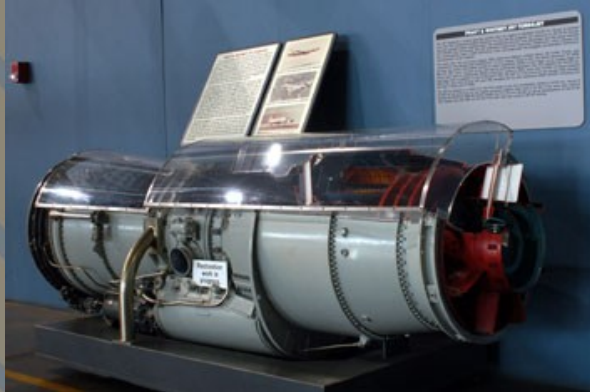
1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

3
5
9
7



J57 engine at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Aerospace Events

- Soviets explode H-bomb

Technology

- J57 engine

Air Force Organization

- Three primary tasks: 1) Control the air; 2) Attack the enemy's heartland; 3) Attack peripheral targets

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Air Force Academy graduates

Wars & Conflicts

- Dien Bien Phu falls

Technology

- Mach 2 powerplant
- Inertial navigation

Air Force Organization

- Air Force Academy founded

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



F-100

Significant Aircraft

- F-100
- B-57

Munitions

- Radar-guided air-to-air missile

Conventional Weapons

- AIM-4 Falcon

4
5
6
7

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



B-52 dropping bombs

Wars & Conflicts

- Suez Crisis

Significant Aircraft

- B-52
- H-21
- C-123

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- REGULUS I

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



U-2A at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Wars & Conflicts

- Cuban Civil War
- Sinai War
- Soviets invade Hungary

Significant Aircraft

- U-2
- B-66

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1956



F-100, F-101, F-102 and F-103

Significant Aircraft (continued)

- F-102
- F-101

Munitions

- IR-guided air-to-air missile

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- AIR-2 Genie

Conventional Weapons

- AIM-9 Sidewinder

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1957



First U.S.-designed ballistic missile

Aerospace Events

- Soviets test ICBM
- Dyna-Soar Project
- Sputnik
- First Atlas launch

Technology

- Turbofan engines

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



KC-135 refuels an SR-71

Significant Aircraft

- KC-135
- C-130
- C-133

Conventional Weapons

- AIM-7 Sparrow

1957

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1950
1951
1952
1953
1954
1955
1956
1957
1958
1959



Explorer I launch

Wars & Conflicts

- U.S. Marines land in Beirut
- Taiwan Crisis

Aerospace Events

- [Explorer I](#)
- NASA created
- First Titan launch

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



F-104

Technology

- Mach 3 powerplant

Significant Aircraft

- F-104
- F-105

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



F-4C with two AGM-12 missiles

Munitions

- Radar-controlled air-to-ground missile

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- B-28

Conventional Weapons

- AGM-12 Bullpup
- CBU-1

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1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1950
1951
1952
1953
1954
1955
1956
1957
1958
1959



John Glenn adjusts his spacesuit

Aerospace Events

- Mercury Flight Program begins

Technology

- Satellite communications
- Integrated circuits

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Snark test launch

Significant Aircraft

- F-106
- H-43

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- B-43
- Snark
- Atlas D/E
- Bomarc

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959

Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1960s

Click on the dates below to learn more

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



X-15A-2 at the National Museum
of the U.S. Air Force

Wars & Conflicts

- U-2 shot down over Soviet Union

Aerospace Events

- French explode A-bomb
- X-15 first flight

Technology

- Laser

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



B-58A

Air Force Organization

- Recognition of developments in missiles and space by replacing “Air Power” with “Aerospace Power”

Significant Aircraft

- B-58
- T-39

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Missile & Space Gallery at the
National Museum of the U.S. Air
Force

Munitions

- Gatling-type aircraft gun

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- Polaris A-1
- Thor
- AGM-28 Hounddog

Conventional Weapons

- M-61 20mm gun

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



A-37A over Vietnam, September 1972

Wars & Conflicts

- Vietnam War begins
- Bay of Pigs

Aerospace Events

- First man in space (Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin)
- First American in space (Alan Shepard)

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1961



Jupiter missile at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Aerospace Events (continued)

- First manned orbital spaceflight (Cosmonaut Gherman Titov)

Air Force Organization

- AFSC formed

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- Jupiter
- AIM 26

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Photo of SA-2 launch sites taken during Cuban Missile Crisis

Wars & Conflicts

- Berlin Crisis
- Cuban Missile Crisis

Aerospace Events

- First Saturn I launch

Technology

- Modern Cryogenics leads to development of Infrared technology

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Missile & Space Gallery at the
National Museum of the U.S. Air
Force

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- Titan I
- Polaris A-2
- Pershing 1A
- Atlas F
- Minuteman I

1962

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



F-4C over South Vietnam, 1967

Aerospace Events

- [John Glenn](#) orbits Earth
- First multi-crew spaceflight (Voskhod I)
- First woman in space (Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova)

Significant Aircraft

- [F-4](#)

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Missile & Space Gallery at the
National Museum of the U.S. Air
Force

Munitions

- Antiradiation missile
- TV-guided glide bomb

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- B-53
- Titan II

Conventional Weapons

- AGM-45 Shrike

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Gemini 6 launch (courtesy of NASA Johnson Space Center)

Aerospace Events

- Gemini Flight Program begins

Air Force Organization

- Introduces policy of flexible response

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



YF-12 takeoff

Significant Aircraft

- CH-3
- UH-1
- YF-12
- F-5

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- Polaris A-3

1964

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



C-141 final flight at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Aerospace Events

- Chinese explode A-bomb
- First spacewalk (Voskhod II)

Significant Aircraft

- C-141

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- Minuteman II

Conventional Weapons

- CBU-24

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



SR-71

Air Force Organization

- Army/Air Force close air support agreement

Significant Aircraft

- SR-71

1966

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1967



Apollo capsule (courtesy of NASA
Glenn Research Center)

Wars & Conflicts

- Six-Day War

Aerospace Events

- Apollo Flight Program begins
- Chinese explode H-bomb

Technology

- Fiber optics

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



F-106A with AGM-78 ARM
mounted on the right wing

Significant Aircraft

- F-111
- CH-53

Munitions

- Runway-cratering munition

Conventional Weapons

- AGM-78 Standard ARM

1967

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



A-7D formation

Wars & Conflicts

- *USS Pueblo* incident
- Soviets invade Czechoslovakia

Aerospace Events

- First Saturn V launch

Significant Aircraft

- A-7D

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1960
1961
1962
1963
1964
1965
1966
1967
1968
1969

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- B-61

Conventional Weapons

- MK-20
- Paveway I LGB

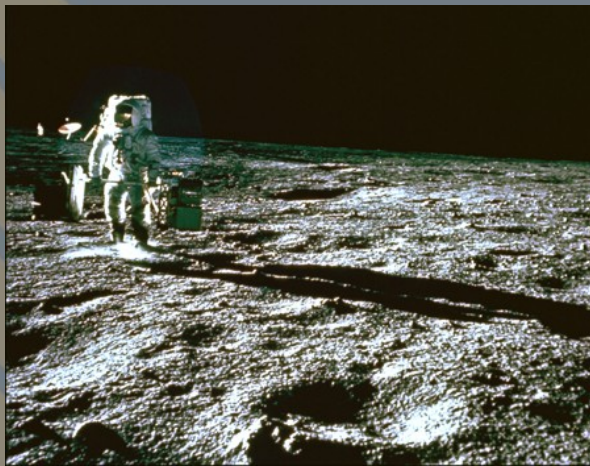
1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1969



Apollo astronaut on the moon
(courtesy of NASA Glenn
Research Center)

Aerospace Events

- First man on the moon
(Apollo XI)

Munitions

- Laser-guided bomb

1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969

Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1970s

Click on the dates below to learn more

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1970



C-9

Technology

- Large-scale integrated circuits

Significant Aircraft

- C-9
- C-5

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- Minuteman III

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Air Force Organization

- Recognized need for more deterrence from general purpose forces; introduced “Role of Air Forces in Space”
- ADC stands down

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- Poseiden C-3

1971

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



FB-111A loaded with four AGM-69 SRAMs

Technology

- First kinetic kill satellite intercept (Soviet ASAT)

Munitions

- TV-guided air-to-ground missiles

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- AGM-69 SRAM
- Lance

1972

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



A-10A with two AGM-65 missiles

Wars & Conflicts

- Yom Kippur War

Aerospace Events

- Skylab launches

Conventional Weapons

- AGM-65 TV Maverick

1973

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Aerospace Events

- India explodes A-bomb

1974

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1975



Mayaguez rescue

Wars & Conflicts

- *USS Mayaguez* incident

Air Force Organization

- Introduced combined doctrine, centralized control and decentralized execution

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



F-15s in flight

Significant Aircraft

- AWACS
- F-15
- A-10

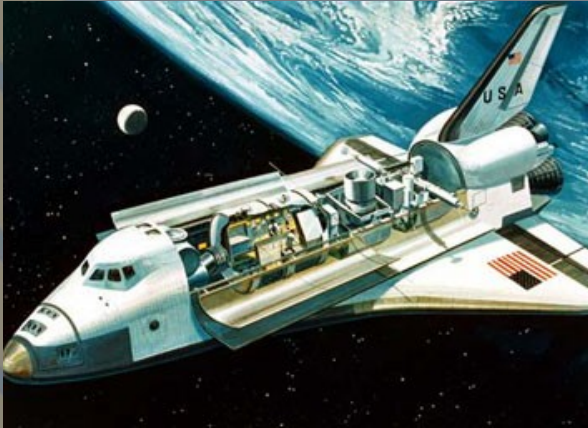
1975

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Space shuttle (courtesy of NASA
Glenn Research Center)

Aerospace Events

- Space Shuttle Flight Program begins

Munitions

- Depleted Uranium (nonexplosive) gun ammo

Conventional Weapons

- GAU-8 30 mm gun
- Paveway II LGB

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1976



F-16

Technology

- Particle beams

Significant Aircraft

- F-16

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1971

Technology

- Very large-scale integrated circuits
- Ring-laser Gyros

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- Trident C-4

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979

Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1980s

Click on the dates below to learn more

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Recently freed Americans held
hostage in Iran disembark
Freedom One, 1981

Wars & Conflicts

- Soviet intervention in Afghanistan
- Iran Hostage Crisis
- Abortive Iran Rescue Raid

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9
1

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Space Shuttle Columbia liftoff
(courtesy of NASA Kennedy
Space Center)

Wars & Conflicts

- Israeli planes destroy Iraqi reactor
- USN F-14s shoot down Libyan MIGs

Aerospace Events

- Space Shuttle Columbia makes first orbital flight

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



KC-10

Technology

- Low-observable (stealth) technology
- Airborne laser lab

Significant Aircraft

- KC-10

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1981

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- ALCM-B
- SLCM

Conventional Weapons

- GBU-15
- GPU-5 30mm gun pod

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Wars & Conflicts

- Falklands

Air Force Organization

- Space Command formed

Conventional Weapons

- Paveway III LLLGB

1982

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Memorial service for Marine and Navy personnel killed in an explosion in Beirut on October 23, 1983

Wars & Conflicts

- Israel occupies Lebanon
- Marines bombed in Beirut
- U.S. Troops intervene in Grenada

Aerospace Events

- First American woman in space (Sally Ride)

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



F-117

Air Force Organization

- Army/Air Force agree on Airland Doctrine

Significant Aircraft

- F-117

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- GLCM
- B-83
- Pershing II

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1984



Bruce McCandless (courtesy of
NASA Johnson Space Center)

Aerospace Events

- First untethered spacewalk (Bruce McCandless)
- First recovery and repair of satellite in space (Solar Max)
- U.S. achieves kinetic kill of ICBM RV in space (Homing Overlay Experiment)

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

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Aerospace Events (continued)

- First satellite recovery and return to Earth (Discovery/Palapa B and Westar 6)

Technology

- High maneuverability research started with X-29

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



C-21A

Significant Aircraft

- C-21A

Munitions

- IR-guided air-to-surface missile

Conventional Weapons

- Durandal
- AGM-88 Harm
- Improved 2,000-lb. bomb

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8
9
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1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989

Wars & Conflicts

- Libyan Airstrike

Conventional Weapons

- CBU-89 Gator
- AGM-65 IIR Maverick
- AGM-84 Harpoon

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1981



Space Shuttle Challenger accident (courtesy of NASA Johnson Space Center)

Aerospace Events

- Challenger explodes
- Voyager aircraft circles globe unrefueled

Air Force Organization

- Packard Commission
- Goldwater-Nichols

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



B-1B

Significant Aircraft

- B-1B

Conventional Weapons

- CBU-87 CEM
- GBU-15 (TV)

1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1984

Wars & Conflicts

- Reflagging of Kuwaiti Tankers
- *USS Stark* hit by Exocet missile

Air Force Organization

- *The Air Campaign* by Col. John Warden published

Technology

- IR-guided glide bomb

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989

[Additional events will automatically appear]



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1981

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- Peacekeeper

Conventional Weapons

- GBU-15 (IIR)
- Conventional ALCM

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Space shuttle returns to flight
(courtesy of NASA)

Aerospace Events

- Space shuttle returns to flight

Significant Aircraft

- HH-60

Munitions

- Inertial guidance technology demo

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Munitions (continued)

- Smart submunitions and mines

Conventional Weapons

- GBU-27

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1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989



Cosmonaut Vladimir Titov
(courtesy of NASA Johnson Space
Center)

Aerospace Events

- Cosmonauts Titov and Manarov spend one year in orbit aboard MIR

Technology

- Earth penetration testing for nuclear devices

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- Trident D-5

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989

Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1990s

Click on the dates below to learn more

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



A crane removes a section of the Berlin Wall

Wars & Conflicts

- Gulf War begins
- U.S. Troops intervene in Panama
- Berlin Wall falls

Aerospace Events

- Solar optical telescope

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

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Technology

- Smart skins

Air Force Organization

- Global Reach - Global Power
- AFSOCOM formed
- PEOs established

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



VC-25A

Significant Aircraft

- VC-25A (AF 1)
- E-8A

Munitions

- Autonomous guidance for conventional weapons

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1

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1991



Hubble space telescope (courtesy of NASA Johnson Space Center)

Wars & Conflicts

- Balkans Air Campaigns
- Official breakup of Soviet Union

Aerospace Events

- Hubble space telescope
- Patriots intercept SCUDs in Gulf War

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



AGM-129A at the National
Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Munitions

- Sensor-fuzed munitions

Nuclear Weapons/Missiles

- AGM-129

Conventional Weapons

- GBU-28
- AIM-120 AMRAAM

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



F-16CJ returns after completing an Operation Northern Watch mission

Wars & Conflicts

- Operations Southern Watch and Northern Watch

Air Force Organization

- Air Combat and Air Mobility commands formed (SAC, TAC and MAC stand down)
- AFMC formed (merged AFSC and AFLC)

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



C-17

Significant Aircraft

- C-17

Munitions

- GPS guidance concept demo

Conventional Weapons

- AGM-142

2001

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Wars & Conflicts

- U.S. Troops intervene in Somalia

1991

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1994

Wars & Conflicts

- U.S. Troops intervene in Haiti

Technology

- Super cruise engine

Conventional Weapons

- AGM-130

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



T-6A

Air Force Organization

- Base reduction and closing

Significant Aircraft

- T-6A
- [Global Hawk](#) (first flight)
- [Predator](#) (first flight)

Munitions

- Miniature munitions technology

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



Aftermath of terrorist attack on Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia

Wars & Conflicts

- Khobar Towers (Saudi Arabia)

Aerospace Events

- Russian/U.S. spaceflights

Technology

- All-composite airframes
- Advanced thrust vectoring

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1994

Technology (continued)

- Integrated cockpit/avionics
- Integrated high-performance turbine engine technology
- Info warfare

Air Force Organization

- Global engagement
- Six AF Core Competencies
- Joint Vision 2010

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1997



B-2 (top) and F-22 (bottom)

Air Force Organization

- HQ Air Force Doctrine Center established at Maxwell AFB, AL
- Air Force 50th Anniversary

Significant Aircraft

- B-2
- F-22
- ABL (Milestone I)

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Conventional Weapons

- CBU-97 SFW
- GAM (LOC on B-2)

1997

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Significant Aircraft

- JSF (Concept Demo)

Munitions

- Hypersonics

Conventional Weapons

- GBU-31/32
- AGM-154

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14

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

1991



Col. Eileen M. Collins

Aerospace Events

- Space Station construction begins
- USAF Col. Eileen Collins, who had been the first woman space shuttle pilot in 1995, became the first woman space shuttle mission commander

[Additional events will automatically appear]

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

Air Force Organization

- Aerospace Expeditionary Forces established

Munitions

- AGM-154A launched for first time against Iraqi air defense site
- Directed energy weapons

1994

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999

Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

2000s

Click on the dates below to learn more

2000 2001 2002

Additional Resources



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



International Space Station
concept (courtesy of NASA
Marshall Space Flight Center)

Aerospace Events

- First permanent human presence in space (International Space Station)

Significant Aircraft

- Boeing unveiled its [X-45A](#) Uninhabited Combat Air Vehicle

[Additional events will automatically appear]

2000 2001 2002

Additional Resources



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline



F-35

Significant Aircraft

(continued)

- Defense Department chose Lockheed Martin over Boeing to build Joint Strike Fighter (F-35)

Conventional Weapons

- WCMD
- AGM-158

2000
2001
2002

2000 2001 2002

Additional Resources



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

2001



Aftermath of terrorist attack on Pentagon, September 11, 2001

Wars & Conflicts

- U.S. Troops intervene in Afghanistan (Enduring Freedom)
- Twin Towers and Pentagon attacked

Munitions

- First use of a passenger-carrying aircraft as a Weapon of Mass Destruction

[Additional events will automatically appear]

2000 2001 2002

Additional Resources



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

2001



Removing raydome cover from
AIM-9X

Conventional Weapons

- AIM-9X (LRIP)

2000 2001 2002

Additional Resources



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

2002



Predator

Munitions

- Introduction of Predator B (RQ-9)
- First use of thermobaric munition (BLU-118/B) in combat

2000 2001 2002

Additional Resources



Air and Space Power

Interactive Timeline

RESOURCES

Additional Online Resources

- [National Museum of the United States Air Force](#)
- [Air Force Link](#)
- [Air Force Historical Research Agency](#)
- [Air Force Historical Foundation](#)
- [Defense Visual Information Center](#)
- [National Archives](#)
- [National Personnel Records Center](#)

2000 2001 2002

Additional Resources

